

power or antenna height above average terrain in any azimuth from an existing transmitter authorized to the filer;

(3) Request an authorization that would relocate an existing fixed transmitter;

(4) Amend a pending application to change a requested frequency;

(5) Amend a pending application in a way that would increase the proposed effective radiated power or antenna height above average terrain in any azimuth from an existing transmitter authorized to the filer;

(6) Amend a pending application to change the location of a fixed transmitter from that previously proposed in the application; or

(7) Amend a pending application for which pre-filing coordination was required to change the technical proposal substantially from that which was coordinated with other users.

**§90.165 Procedures for mutually exclusive applications.**

Mutually exclusive commercial mobile radio service applications are processed in accordance with the rules in this section, except for mutually exclusive applications for licenses in the 220–220 MHz service and the 929–930 MHz Paging service, which are processed in accordance with the rules in subpart P and subpart T of this part.

Two or more pending applications are mutually exclusive if the grant of one application would effectively preclude the grant of one or more of the others under Commission rules governing the services involved.

(a) *Separate applications.* Any applicant that files an application knowing that it will be mutually exclusive with one or more applications should not include in the mutually exclusive application a request for other channels or facilities that would not, by themselves, render the application mutually exclusive with those other applications. Instead, the request for such other channels or facilities should be filed in a separate application.

(b) *Filing groups.* Pending mutually exclusive applications are processed in filing groups. Mutually exclusive applications in a filing group are given concurrent consideration. The Commission may dismiss as defective (pursuant to

§90.162) any mutually exclusive applications(s) whose filing date is outside of the date range for inclusion in the filing group. The types of filing groups used in day-to-day application processing are specified in paragraph (c)(3) of this section. A filing group is one of the following types:

(1) *Renewal filing group.* A renewal filing group comprises a timely-filed application for renewal of an authorization and all timely-filed mutually exclusive competing applications.

(2) *Same-day filing group.* A same-day filing group comprises all mutually exclusive applications whose filing date is the same day, which is normally the filing date of the first-filed applications(s).

(3) *Thirty-day notice and cut-off filing group.* A 30-day notice and cut-off filing group comprises mutually exclusive applications whose filing date is no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the Public Notice listing the first-filed application(s) (according to the filing dates) as acceptable for filing.

(4) *Window filing group.* A window filing group comprises mutually exclusive applications whose filing date is within an announced filing window. An announced filing window is a period of time between and including two specific dates, which are the first and last dates on which applications (or amendments) for a particular purpose may be accepted for filing. In the case of a one-day filing window, the two dates are the same. The dates are made known to the public in advance.

(c) *Procedures.* Generally, the Commission may grant one application in a filing group of mutually exclusive applications and dismiss the other application(s) in the filing group that are excluded by the grant, pursuant to §90.162.

(1) *Selection methods.* In selecting the application to grant, the Commission may use competitive bidding, random selection, or comparative hearings, depending on the type of applications involved.

(2) *Dismissal of applications.* The Commission may dismiss any application in a filing group that is defective or otherwise subject to dismissal under

§ 90.162, either before or after employing selection procedures.

(3) *Type of filing group used.* Except as otherwise provided in this part, the type of filing group used in processing of two or more mutually exclusive applications depends on the purpose(s) of the applications.

(i) If one of the mutually exclusive applications is a timely-filed application for renewal of an authorization, a renewal filing group is used.

(ii) If any mutually exclusive application filed on the earliest filing date is an application for modification and none of the mutually exclusive applications is a timely-filed application for renewal, a same-day filing group is used.

(iii) If all of the mutually exclusive applications filed on the earliest filing date are applications for initial authorization, a 30-day notice and cut-off filing group is used.

(4) *Disposition.* If there is only one application in any type of filing group, the Commission may grant that application and dismiss without prejudice any mutually exclusive applications not in the filing group. If there is more than one mutually exclusive application in a filing group, the Commission disposes of these applications as follows:

(i) Applications in a renewal filing group. All mutually exclusive applications in a renewal filing group are designated for comparative consideration in a hearing.

(ii) Applications in a 30-day notice and cut-off filing group.

(A) If all of the mutually exclusive applications in a 30-day notice and cut-off filing group are applications for initial authorization, the Commission administers competitive bidding procedures in accordance with subpart Q of part 1 of this chapter. After such procedures, the application of the successful bidder may be granted and the other applications may be dismissed without prejudice.

(B) If any of the mutually exclusive applications in a 30-day notice and cut-off filing group is an application for modification or an application for facilities, the Commission may attempt to resolve the mutual exclusivity by facilitating a settlement between the ap-

plicants. If a settlement is not reached within a reasonable time, the Commission may designate all applications in the filing group for comparative consideration in a hearing. In this event, the result of the hearing disposes all of the applications in the filing group.

(iii) Applications in a same-day filing group. If there are two or more mutually exclusive applications in a same-day filing group, the Commission may attempt to resolve the mutual exclusivity by facilitating a settlement between the applicants. If a settlement is not reached within a reasonable time, the Commission may designate all applications in the filing group for comparative consideration in a hearing. In this event, the result of the hearing disposes all of the applications in the filing group.

(iv) Applications in a window filing group. Applications in a window filing group are processed in accordance with the procedures for a 30-day notice and cut-off filing group in paragraph (c)(4)(ii) of this section.

(d) *Terminology.* For the purposes of this section, terms have the following meanings:

(1) The “filing date” of an application is the date on which that application was received in a condition acceptable for filing or the date on which the most recently filed major amendment to that application was received, whichever is later, excluding major amendments in the following circumstances:

(i) The major amendment reflects only a change in ownership or control found by the Commission to be in the public interest;

(ii) The major amendment as received is defective or otherwise found unacceptable for filing; or

(iii) The application being amended has been designated for hearing and the Commission or the presiding officer accepts the major amendment.

(2) An “application for initial authorization” is:

(i) Any application requesting an authorization for a new system or station;

(ii) Any application requesting authorization for an existing station to operate on an additional channel, unless the additional channel is for paired

two-way radiotelephone operation, is in the same frequency range as the existing channel(s), and will be operationally integrated with the existing channel(s) such as by trunking; or

(iii) any application requesting authorization for a new transmitter at a location more than 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from any existing transmitters of the applicant licensee on the requested channel or channel block.

(3) An "application for modification" is any application other than an application for initial authorization or renewal.

#### **§90.166 Grants of applications.**

Applications for a commercial mobile radio service authorization under this part may be granted thirty (30) days after the issuance date of a Public Notice listing an application or the latest filed major amendment thereto as acceptable for filing.

(a) *Criteria for grants.* The Commission grants applications without a hearing if, after examination of the application and consideration of any petitions or other pleadings and of such other matters as it may officially notice, the Commission finds that:

(1) A grant will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity;

(2) There are no substantial and material questions of fact presented;

(3) The applicant is eligible and qualified under applicable Commission regulations and policies;

(4) The application is acceptable for filing, and complies with the Commission rules and other applicable requirements;

(5) The application has not been designated for a hearing after being selected in a random selection process;

(6) There are no applications entitled to comparative consideration with the application being granted; and

(7) Operation of the proposed station would not cause interference to any authorized station(s).

(b) *Grant of petitioned applications.* The Commission may grant, without a formal hearing, applications against which petitions to deny have been filed. If any petition(s) to deny are pending (*i.e.*, have not been dismissed pursuant to §90.161 or withdrawn by the petitioner) when an application is

granted, the Commission shall deny the petition(s) and issue a concise statement of the reason(s) for the denial, disposing of all substantive issues raised in the petitions.

(c) *Partial and conditional grants.* The Commission may grant applications in part, and/or subject to conditions other than those normally applied to authorizations of the same type. When the Commission does this, it will inform the applicant of the reasons therefor. Such partial or conditional grants are final unless the Commission revises its action in response to a petition for reconsideration. Such petitions for reconsideration must be filed by the applicant within thirty days after the date of the letter or order stating the reasons for the partial or conditional grant, and must reject the partial or conditional grant and return the instrument of authorization.

(d) *Designation for hearing.* The Commission may designate applications for a hearing, specifying with particularity the matters in issue, if, after consideration of the application, any petitions or other pleadings, and other matters which it may officially notice, the Commission is unable to make one or more of the findings listed in paragraph (a) of this section. The Commission may grant, deny, or take other action with respect to applications designated for a hearing.

#### **§90.167 Time in which a station must commence service.**

(a) Unless otherwise specified in this part, all 220-222 MHz, private carrier paging, Business Radio, and SMR licensees must commence service within twelve (12) months from the date of grant or the authorization cancels automatically and must be returned to the Commission.

(b) For purposes of this section, a station licensed to provide commercial mobile radio service is not considered to have commenced service unless it provides service to at least one unaffiliated party.

(c) Application for extension of time to commence service may be made on Commission Form 600. Extensions of